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Applicants: Kiran K. Chada et al.  
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**In the Claims**

Please replace the currently pending set of claims with the set of claims set forth below without prejudice under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing the amount of adipose tissue in a subject comprising administering to the subject an amount of an sFRP-5 peptide effective to reduce the amount of adipose tissue, or an amount of a molecule effective to stimulate expression of the sFRP-5 peptide in the subject, wherein the sFRP-5 peptide comprises consecutive amino acids having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.
- 2-7. (Cancelled)
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is human.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the administration is parenteral, intradermal, transdermal, transmucosal, rectal, subcutaneous, or by inhalation.
- 10-16. (Cancelled)
17. (Original) A method of reducing the level of adipose tissue formation in a subject comprising administering to the subject an amount of an sFRP-5 peptide effective to reduce the level of adipose tissue formation, or an amount of a molecule effective to stimulate expression of the sFRP-5 peptide in the subject, wherein the sFRP-5 peptide comprises consecutive amino acids having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.